The Orthodox Herald

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YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE

Chances are that you have recently received a renewal notice for your favorite magazine subscription, some service, or maybe a contract that is soon to expire. You must decide *today* to renew.

Christ calls us to renew our commitment to Him and He needs a response from you, not yesterday or tomorrow, but *now*.

The week of the Great Day of the Resurrection of Christ is sometimes referred to as the ***"Week of Renewal"***. Renewal is a spiritual necessity. Without it, one cannot have a sense of purpose and well-being.

A genuine commitment to Christ consists of recognizing Him as Lord and Master; a desire to follow His commandments in every circumstance throughout your life; living the Gospel; frequent reception of the sacred Sacraments especially Holy Communion; increased prayer and ascetical effort. It means not to view the practice of the Gospel as too burdensome *(1 John 5:3)* or ever the wrong choice.

Sometime during this week, take the time to gather as a family or individually say this prayer:

"O Lord and Master, today I renew the promises made for me on the day of my baptism. I, (*say your name*) renounce Satan, together with all his works, and all his angels, and all service to Him, and all his arrogance. I believe in Christ and unite myself to Him. I promise to serve Him all the days of my life. Therefore, I recite this orthodox profession of faith: (*Now recite the Nicene Creed.*)

There is no genuine renewal in Christ without frequent reception of His most precious Body and life-giving Blood. "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you (*John 6:53*).

So, have you received your renewal notice yet? In the fear of God with faith and love, draw near!

Raymond J. Mastroberte



Christ Is Risen!

ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

A TRADITION OF EASTER

One of the many traditions associated with Easter is the preparation of the Holy Easter Basket. My mother, now 76, can't prepare the basket, but because of my love, not only of her, but also my faith, I have been carrying on the tradition. Now that I am nearing 40, I have come to realize that a tradition only lasts as long as there are people to carry it on. I am proud to do so.

Each of the items in the basket represents all the fruits of the earth that God has freely given and which we did without through Lent and are now ready to partake of on Easter Sunday. From the meats, there is ham, kielbasi, pork, veal, and bacon. Colored eggs are placed around the basket, colored either with dyes or onion skins. Some eggs called "pysanky" are hollowed out, decorated with designs made of hot wax. Then dipping them in colors and removing the wax to retain each design and color. Dairy products are also included in the basket. They include butter either molded into the shape of a lamb or simply placed in a glass bowl with a Byzantine Cross engraved on it. Also, there is Hrutka, a cheese made from curdling eggs and milk, formed into a ball in a cloth by hanging it until it is cooled and dried.

A must in the basket is Paska, a special bread baked and decorated with a cross made from the dough. Kolachky, a form of rolled baked pastry with a filling

(Continued on Page 177 Col. 1)

A TRIBUTE

My dear mother Mary, you have traveled this life for 89 years. You came from the old world to a new world when times were hard and life unsure. You made a home in America. You have always tried to be a perfect mother. For this you have been blessed by God and you held God's course in your life. In so many ways, beyond count, you provided a wonderful example of how to live.

Sometimes we tried to hold you to higher standards than we should have, and sometimes we fell short of acknowledging your wisdom and good deeds.

What is the most important thing a mother does? She chooses a good father for her children. As a good mother, you chose a good father for all of your six children. Together, you worked to provide for our earthly needs. You by working at the hospital for nearly 50 years and our father, who for 27 years tilled the soil and tended to the trees which provided food for your children.

You picked a good father for your children. While he was strict he not only provided for our earthly needs but led us into the world of God, and at times pulled us by our ears so that we should be schooled in Godly ways.

A good mother chooses a good father. A good mother stands by the father for better or for worse and that you have always done. For all of these so important things and for those I have no time to mention here, your eldest son, Peter, wants to thank you and asks God to bestow upon you all of His blessings. Let this Mother's Day be another in a series of many more to come. May all of them be in good health and happiness, which you so richly deserve. Mnohaya Leta.

Petro Hutko Kotzer, PhD

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Every Christian occupies some kind of pulpit and preaches some kind of sermon every day.

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CHRONOLOGY

MAY 2002

METROPOLITAN THEODOSIUS of the OCA has submitted his resignation to take effect on 22 July 2002. The Sobor held at this time is to select a new metropolitan.

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH AND SOCIETY: Is a comprehensive statement by the Orthodox Church on many contemporary social and ethical problems. It is supported and explained by quotations from the Bible and the Church Fathers. Ideal for adult study groups as well as an answer for Orthodox who want to know what their church teaches on various matters. Indexed. Order from: Firebird, 27 Menlo Park Dr., Belleville, MI 48111-2918 or call: 734-699-0870 or e-mail: catalog@firebirdvideos.com

ST. CATHERINE is the official patroness of the Russian space program. Her ikon can be found in the nerve center of Russia's nuclear defense center.

TAMARA TIMKO, PhD, is now in Guatemala helping in the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage. She is teaching religious education, English and assisting in many ways with the toddler and preschool children. She plans to remain there for at least two years. She is in need of spiritual and financial help. Send to OCMC (Tamara Timko), PO Box 4319, St. Augustine, FL 32084-4319.

THE NEW LIBRARY COMPLEX at St. Vladimir Seminary, Crestwood, NY will be dedicated on May 10-11.

LITURGICAL LANGUAGE was discussed in the Winter issue of Doxa. It set forth certain criteria. The language must 1) be iconographic, 2) Not be "street language," 3) be understandable, 4) be singable, 5) carefully and accurately express what is said in the original, 6) conserve time-honored and successful phrases from earlier translations, 7) be a link between past and present, and 8) recognize that translation into new languages does not mean that older languages cannot be used.

All jurisdictions have brought forth translations. Too often the grammar is incorrect, they are impossible to set to music and many times have theological errors.

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION ORTHODOX CHURCH is made up of 30 former members of a Hillsboro, Kansas nondenominational church. They have Mennonite roots. Their pastor, Rev. John Baize, is a graduate of a Mennonite brethren seminary in California. Bishop Job is expected to receive them into Orthodoxy.

THE RELICS housed in a 700 lb. fireproof safe in St. Nicholas Church, which was destroyed at Ground Zero, have not been found. The relics of St. Nicholas, St. Katherine and St. Sava the Sanctified were kept in a gold-plated box marked with an image of Christ.

THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to St. Tikhon's Monastery in So. Canaan, PA will take place on May 25-27 with the main pilgrimage on the 27.

MILOSERI or "Mercy and Compassion Group from Holy Resurrection Church, 75 East 43rd Ave., Vancouver BC, V5W 1S7, Canada has lived up to its name. Among their recent projects has been: 70 boxes of clothes, shoes, toys and chocolates to Fr. Stremski and his matushka in Russia, who have adopted 48 children and organized a refuge for 25 older people; sent $500 U.S. to the "Right of Mothers" fund, which works with mothers who lost sons in Chechnya and other military service; donated $1000 to SS Cosmas and Damian Church in Moscow to help orphans in Chechnya; sent money and surgical gloves to Children's Hospital in Moscow; and has packed 22 boxes of medical supplies and clothes to be sent to Lv Ukraine. They would appreciate help fo continuing their miloserdi. They are willing to help with information to any group wishing to start a similar charity.

WHEN ST. GREGORY PARISH in Seaford, NY on Long Island organized in 1980, they moved into an historic chapel, which had been built in 1895. The parish has since grown and has need of more space for worship and community activities. The church building will be expanded adhering to rules set by the Historical Landmarks Commission.

ATTENDANCE AT A SUMMER CAMP led 10 monks in Greece to be concerned about the music the young people were listening to. They prepared a 10 song compact disc "I Learned to Live Free," which sold over 52,000 copies. The songs offer traditional Christian themes with a modern beat. A new disc "SOS' is due to be released soon.

CHRISTIANITY THE CREATIVE IMAGINATION will be the topic of t conference held at Eichstatt, a city 90 minutes by train north of Munich, Germany, on June 17 to July 6. For info www.touchstonemag.com or call 215/877-9910 or contact International Institute for Culture, 6331 Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19151.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE, Orthodox Christian Conference and Retreat Center, located near Pittsburgh, PA, has a full schedule of programs. Orthodoxy and the Environment from June 14 to 16; Family Camp from August 30 to September 2; SS Thekla and Raphael Pilgrimage from September 20-22. For a full listing call 724/238-3677 or e-mail AV Center @antiochian.org.

THE ST. YAKOV CENTER FOR ORTHODOX LEARNING was dedicated in Soldotna, Alaska, which is located on the Kenai Peninsula. It will serve as a resource center offering materials, seminars and classes. A 31-foot motor home is located nearby and will serve as a traveling classroom, weather perr ting. Barbara Larson will direct the ce ter.

Continued from front page)

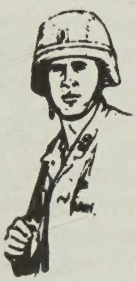
A TRADITION OF EASTER

of poppy seed, nuts, prunes or other fruit items, is also included. An orange, salt and pepper, horseradish and a blessed candle are all placed in the basket which is covered with an embroidered cloth with the traditional saying: "Christ is Risen." More modern additions are a chocolate cross and rabbit.

The tradition for these foods has traveled thousands of miles and through many centuries to their present home here in the United States. I am so pleased and proud of my faith and happy to show it by making the Easter Basket with all it stands for. I have always heard and seen my mother happiest during this season and more so now that her children have begun the tradition and plan to carry it and pass it on through time. Christos Voskrese!

John Martinelli

MEMORIAL DAY



For too many Americans, the original meaning of Memorial Day has drifted away with the barbecue smoke. Taking a three-day weekend on whatever date the last Monday of May falls, more and more families regard this important patriotic holiday as little more than a swinging gate to summer vacation.

But Memorial Day deserves its moment of traditional reflection to salute those who gave their lives in battle. Formerly called "Decoration Day," the holiday's definition broadened over time to honor the memories of civilians and soldiers alike. Too often the services, prayers, and parades for fallen soldiers became something to do if the fish weren't biting.

It's difficult to put into words what we should always remember to celebrate on Memorial Day. That's what makes it so special. Lest we forget.

MONTH OF MAY

There are so many special days in May this year. We start with part of Holy Week and then joyfully greet the Resurrection of Our Lord on Pascha/Easter May 5. We remember St. Alexis on Tuesday, May 7 and the brothers SS Cyril and Methodius on May 11/24. These come during Bright Week, when we do not fast.

May 12 is the 2nd Sunday of Pascha. Dedicated to St. Thomas and in the U.S. to Mother's Day. We read from Acts 5:12-20 and John 20:19-31. The prayers for the Vespers are especially educational. They tell us how St. Thomas turned from being an unbeliever to a believer. His comment, "Unless I see, I will not believe," is still said by many who want proof of God.

May 19 is the 3rd Sunday of Pascha. It is dedicated to the Myrrhbearing Women. The readings are from Acts 6:1-7 and Mark 15:43-16:8. They went to the Tomb on a mission of mercy and received the privilege of telling His disciples about the Risen Christ. "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is Risen from the dead." We celebrate SS Constantine and Helen on May 21/June 3.

May 26, the 4th Sunday of Pascha, is dedicated to the Paralytic. Readings on this day are from Acts 9:32-42, John 5:1-15. Many infirm or disabled can identify with this man when he laments: "Have mercy on me for my head has become my grave. Of what use is my life?"

NOTES: Christ appeared to many after His Resurrection. The first food He ate was broiled fish and a honeycomb. He asked for these. This is the reason many memorial meals after the burial of a believer have fish on the menu.

Note also that the Sundays after Pascha/Easter are numbered as Sundays of not after. For example, St. Thomas Sunday is not the 1st Sunday after Easter but the 2nd Sunday of Easter.

Note: that we explain; "Christ is Risen" not has Risen.

HOLY THURSDAY

The poor attendance for the service of the reading of the 12 selections from the Gospels dealing with the betrayal and death of Christ and the excuses: the service is too long, it's too repetitive, it does nothing for me, etc., brings us to meditate on Matt 26:40,41: "He said: What could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. 'The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak'."

The selections which will be read are:

1. John 13:31-18:1	2. John 18:1-18
3. Matt 26:57-75	4. John 18:28-19:16
5. Matt 27:3-32	6. Mark 15:16-32
7. Matt 27:33-54	8. Luke 23:32-49
9. John 19:25-37	10. Mark 15:43-47
11. John 19:38-42	12. Matt 27:62-66

It is the custom in many parishes to hold a candle, which is lighted for each of the readings. This candle is taken home lighted and the sign of the cross is made on the lintel of the front or main door to the home.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who advised young Christians to stop thinking like children?
2. Which Gospel says that the child Jesus grew up strong?
3. What prophet advised people to tell their children about the locust plague?
4. Which epistle advises fathers not to exasperate their children?
5. What book says that the child raised up in the right way will never depart from it?
6. What priest was too indulgent toward his spoiled son?
7. What prophet had dishonest sons who took bribes?

ANSWERS:
1. Paul (1 Corinthians 14:20)
2. Luke (1:80)
3. Joel (1:3)
4. Ephesians (6:4)
5. Proverbs (22:6)
6. Eli (1 Samuel 3:13)
7. Samuel (1 Samuel 8:3)

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ALASKA: Ethel Watlock, Lois Bedder, John Chura, Nicholas Teno.

MISSION: Philip Hrabar, Vera Anderson, Harry Boyko, Vladimir Skuby, Margaret Starr

BOTH ALASKA AND MISSION: Anonymous, Patricia DiGiacobbe, Olga Lorko Anderson, Val and Agnes Fryntzko, Nicholas Koutavas, Vera Merella, Tony and Janet Miralles, SbDc Paul and Joan Maty

THE DIFFERENCE OF DATES

There are many calculations which are made to decide the day Pascha/Easter is celebrated. The Orthodox Church still follows the rule laid down by the Council of Nicea, which was held in the year 325. The rules were made to standardize the date so that all churches would celebrate on the same date. The patriarch of Alexandria was delegated to announce by letter the date for the current year on Epiphany. The scholars of Alexandria were considered the most competent to make the difficult computations and observations necessary to determine the date.

The rule made by the Council of Nicea is that Pascha/Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon which comes after the equinox which falls on March 21. If the full moon comes on a Sunday, the celebration is set for the following Sunday.

The celebration cannot come at the same time of the Jewish Passover (which is an 8-day feast), nor can it come before it because the sacrifice of the Jewish lamb must come before the sacrifice of Christ as our salvation. The order follows that of Scripture.

Some of the difficulties in rendering the rule is the full moon used for the reckoning is the 14th day of the Lunar Month according to the ancient Ecclesiastical computation and not the real Astronomical full moon.

Another consideration is that these calculations are made according to the Julian Calendar (now known as the Old Calendar). Orthodox Churches who follow the Gregorian Calendar still use the calculations according to the Julian Calendar.

There are other calculations which must be considered as the date cannot fall before March 23 or after April 25 according to the Julian Calendar.

The Solar Calendar is also considered. The number of days between each full moon is not exact according to this calendar. Ancient calendars added or subtracted a period called an epact to harmonize these calendars.

These are some reasons for the difference.

* * * * * *

It is better to know God than to be able to describe Him.

PRESS FUND

Donations to all of our funds help us to keep publishing and distributing **The Orthodox Herald**. It warms our hearts and lifts our spirits when we read your notes and remarks. May the assurance that "Christ is risen, indeed, as He had foretold: He has given us eternal life and eternal mercy" give you peace. Spasebo/Thank You –

Michelle Parvensky, Val and Agnes Fryntzko, Tom Swift, Helen Greco, Mary Kochmaruk, Anonymous, Anne Lelo, Ruby Chrisafulli, Catherine Shaffchick, Susan and Scott Boris, Olga Lorko Anderson, Anne Dorozynski, Irene Rossi, Ethel Watlock, Olga Sorensen, Vera Merella, Ed and Irene Rhenish, Doris Koveal, Vladimir Skuby, Mildred Sturmer, Mr. and Mrs. William Priatko, Irene Allen, Anna Farylo, Paul Stuchlak, Don Holobinko, Peter Starr, Lillian Bizup, Anne Haluszizak, Elizabeth H. and Peter Hetman.

Anna Tanchak for health of Father and Matushka Nina Stroyen. Lazarus, Maria and Joseph Kiehl in honor of our 50th year of publication. George and Dolly Manzuk as Easter gift. Christine Hazzard in honor of her grandmother – Johanna Chomko's birthday. Fr. and Matushka Stroyen for health of George Walko.

George and Dolly Manzuk in memory of cantor George Manzuk and Frank and Anna Matich. Mary Lezak in memory of her husband Steve. Sue Johnson in memory of her parents Peter and Anna Hlivka. SbDc Paul and Joan Maty in memory of Peter and Susanna Pavelchak and Martin and Elizabeth Maty.

In Memory Lists from Nettie Sherby, Nicholas and Vera Blonsky, Steve and Lenora Evancho. Prayers of remembrance.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Maria,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot shitko OK noh yah mam takee sore throat ee yah dumam zhe yah scrazuyou trying to make me staree hear me.

Me staree neh chuyeh dobree. Ohn neh admit do toho. Yah neh znam chee ohn mah hearing problem chee ohn tunes me out. Sometimes yah povestee yehmu dva che tree times then yah starting to kretchatee. A ohn takee mad ee prosit chemu yah hollering. Kolee yah kazhu zhe yah already told him three times, ohn takee upset nah meneh, ee kazhe, "You think I'm deaf?"

Yah dumam what I gotta do? Yah neh mozhu tak zhetee. Finally, yah dumam zhe yah dam yehmu dose of same medicine. Kolee ohn doh mene budey talking yah will tune him out ili budyu saying – what? what? Ohn neh lubit tot situation ee decided to ask his friend _ take neighborhood philosof shto he ought to do. Philosof skazal yemu to try an experiment. Me husband bral yeho advice.

Tot vecher kolee yah peeling bandurkee nah supper standing with me pletchee doh rooma, me husband stood in the dining room dveree ee zvidae, "Can you hear me?"

Yah nech neh kazhu. Then ohn preshol a few steps closer ee asked, "Chewyesh menah?" Yah nech neh kazhu no yah could hardly trematesa from laughing.

Then ohn preshol closer, "Can you hear me?" Again yah nech neh kazhu. Ohn panicoval – duma moshe yah barz hluha.

Then ohn stood close to me ee zvidaesya, "Hanya, chewyesh mene?" Yah very teeho answered – "For the fourth time – yes!"

Yah neh znam shto ohn ee philospf balakalee – noh me husband make appointment in ear clinic.

Budte Zdorove
Shouting Hanya

WINTER'S GRACE

Before the advent of electronic navigation systems, sailors depended on lighthouses along the shore for safety. Without these beacons of light, ships were in danger of being destroyed by rocks and shallows along the shore.

In our personal lives, we also often encounter tumultuous seas and times of stormy darkness: personal or family illness, families torn apart by divorce or death, or perhaps a crisis in our faith life. How are we to deal with the storms in our lives?

As we search for beacons of safety to guide our way, we have only to look for the "light of the world" our Lord Jesus Christ. When you experience darkness in your life, find a quiet place and try to remember those times when Jesus was a beacon of light for you.

SHORTEST VERSE

The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35 – which consists of two words: "Jesus wept."

SOBORNOST

Theology of Ignatius of Antioch

St. Ignatius' doctrine of the episcopate is well known: the bishop takes the place of God by presiding over the community, while the presbyters around him represent the apostles. The Lord's Supper is fully reproduced in each Christian community. The bishop's authority is exercised within the community and according to his place in the assembly; his place is that of God, and no place is higher.

The function of the bishop is to fulfill within the Church, as the Body of Christ, the ministry of the Head, that is: to sit where Christ sat among the disciples, to teach what He taught, to be the shepherd and high-priest. Ignatius writes: "Let us follow the bishop as Jesus Christ did the Father... Let the Eucharist be held valid which is offered by the bishop or by one to whom the bishop has committed the charge. Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be." (Smyrn.8)

He wrote to the faithful of Magnesia: "Be eager to be firmly established in the precepts of the Lord and of the apostles with your right reverent bishop and worthily-woven chaplet of your presbytery, and with the godly deacons. Be submissive to the bishop and to one another, as Jesus Christ was to the Father, and the apostles to Christ and to the Father, that there may be a union both of flesh and spirit." (Magn.6)

St. Ignatius addressed a letter to the Philadelphians warning them about the danger of schism. (In Revelation 3: 7-13 it is identified as the weak but faithful church.) "All who belong to God and Jesus Christ are with the bishop and all who repent (that is, of schism) and who come into the unity of the Church will also belong to God... If anyone follows a man who causes a schism, he 'does not inherit the kingdom of God'." (Phil.3)

Fr. Michael Dahulich, PhD
St. Tikhon Seminary: Provost/Dean

WE'RE PREPARED

For many weeks, by extra prayers, liturgical services and ceremonies, the Church has been preparing us for the glorious day of Christ's Resurrection – Easter Sunday. Since everyone had the opportunity to be cleansed from personal sin, we now celebrate with beautiful, joyous ceremonies the final triumph – the Life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

After the long ages of darkness, after the seemingly endless expectation of the prophets as told in the Old Testament, after the thirty hidden years and the three years of public life, after the frightful passion which had seemed to be the end of all hope, after three days in the depths of the tomb, behold: CHRIST IS RISEN!

The time of weeping is over; now it is the time of joy. Christ's Resurrection is the greatest miracle. It is most divine and least human, for it took place when the Man-Christ was in the grave. We know now for sure that Christ is God and we rejoice.

The festivities of Easter begin with the Resurrection Services, which takes place at midnight or early in the morning while darkness still prevails.

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom has many deviations. We hear over and over again: "Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!" in order to emphasize the joy and solemn happiness brought by the glorious Resurrection of Christ.

If we have participated in the services and prayers and fasting of Holy week. If we have suffered with Christ in His passion. If we have risen with Him on Easter morning then we will indeed find new spiritual life.

FOR ALL WHO ARE BAPTIZED

"These three things God requires of all the baptized: right faith in the heart, truth on the tongue, temperance in the body." So teaches St. Gregory the Theologian.

In the early centuries of Christianity, Pascha was the time for Baptism of Catechumens (those who were being prepared for the Sacrament – at this time there were many adult converts). Thus, the teaching at the Services was aimed at unfolding before the newly-baptized (and recalling to those who had been baptized in previous years) the lofty and great vocation they had entered upon – and the radiant joy and reward that awaited them as they held firm to their commitment to God's wisdom and truth.

Let us also recall this vocation. Let us not be as the unbelievers. Let us have faith! It is normal for us to doubt but let us build our life and act not on the basis of doubt but on faith! Alas, it is also normal in this world for people to speak craftily, insincerely. Let us either speak the truth or keep silent!

And temperance (moderation) – something we have been striving to develop during Lent, will help us retain the health of our body and soul so that we might live long and well (by God's mercy) and serve God Who is invisible by serving our brothers and sisters whom we see around us. Glory to Him forever.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

•WHEN YOU AND YOUR CHILD COME TO CHURCH

This is an excellent time to teach your child many of the important facts and beliefs about our Faith. It is also a time that you can demonstrate to them the correct way to behave and show reverence during services and proper behavior in the church building.

•Take time to discuss with your child:

Why do we not kneel during the Pascal (Easter) season?

Kneeling is an act of penance and because we are joyful in the Resurrection of Christ, we don't kneel.

Why do we make the sign of the Cross?

To mark on our body,
the Suffering and Resurrection of Christ

What is Holy Communion?

The way God (Jesus) is present with us, today.

Why do we receive Holy Communion?

To unite ourselves with Christ.

Remember parents, religious education is part of parenting, and is not reserved to the Church School Teachers.

•Your Faith can be best communicated to your children by you.

Fr. Elias Mitchell

ST. ALEXIS (TOTH)

We feel a closeness to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre for several reasons. He is from the Carpathian area, which we have visited many times and where we still have family; he struggled much for the faith in Wilkes-Barre, PA, which is the closest city to our home in Hunlock Creek, and he was buried in St. Tikhon's Monastery, adjacent to the seminary, where we have many ties.

He is a contemporary saint living into the early part of the 20th century. There are a few people living who were baptized by him. He began his road on the way to the Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, MN and continued it in the Wilkes-Barre, PA area. Here, he did most of his work organizing many parishes in the northeast United States. His main church was Holy Resurrection cathedral, where his relics now repose in a beautiful reliquary. The road was rocky. His life was threatened and it was necessary for him to have bodyguards.

Besides parishes, he organized ROC-MAS, a mutual aid society, to help his people in a day when welfare and insurance were scarce for his people. The plight of widows and orphans was especially sad. Since many men worked in the coal mines, with poor safety measures, they were often killed. There bodies were dumped on the front porch for his new widow and children to deal with. If they lived in a company house, they had to move out. St. Alexis had mercy and took the initiative to help them.

His Kondak says: "O chosen and defender of the faith … we honor your struggles, patience, and great sufferings … As you have boldness in prayer to God free us your children from every adversity…"

With prayers and reflection we remember St. Alexis on May 7, which is also Bright Tuesday this year.

THINKING

Imagine yourself Easter morning in a garden, like Mary, alone with your thoughts, weeping about something that you think should be there but isn't. We all have some pain, some personal trauma. We have confusion. You may be thinking: "I thought the direction of life would be clearer by this time. That I could see a straight path to the future. Instead, there is just this big empty road with no signs on it. People have let me down. People die, people change, people leave, people stay but don't have time for me. People don't notice me. I don't like myself. I don't want to get used to myself being this way, but neither do I seem to have the power to change. Nothing is as it is supposed to be – as I expected it to be."

Where is God in all this? Where do I go to find Him? Not in this garden with a sentimental stained glass image that I have created for my own convenience. That Jesus isn't big enough, or powerful enough, to deal with my deep-felt hurt, confusion and guilt.

But the glorious news of Pascha is that He is not here in the garden grave. He's alive. Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

I cannot find Him sitting here trying to figure it out, attempting to manage my life in my own way. I will leave this quiet place of contemplation, this garden, to take up a demanding schedule. But in the quiet moments punctuating the hubbub, I will remember that when I leave, I will not leave alone. Jesus will not stay buried for me anymore than He did for Mary Magdalene. I will find Him most unexpectedly even in the most devastating moments and places of life. For didn't He promise me: "I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go, you know, and the way you know." John 14:3,4.

NO NEED FOR GOD

When Theodore Roosevelt was a colonel in the army, he visited a Navajo reservation. In conversation with a missionary there, he said: "Do you think if we were to provide these people with better living conditions, better housing, clothes, and the like, that you would more easily reach them with the Gospel?"

The missionary replied: "Suppose, Colonel, that when the prodigal son was in the far country, someone had given him a good home, a new suit of clothes, and a bank account – how soon would he have returned to the father's house?" Roosevelt replied, "Never."

Whatever

The most important feast day in the Orthodox Church is Pascha/Easter. It is the Holy Day of Holy Days, the feast of feasts, the day of victory over death and triumph and joy.

In the Early Church it was customary for adults to be baptized on Resurrection Day. They wore new white garments to symbolize their being cleansed from sin and their rebirth to a new life in Christ. New clothes for Pascha/Easter became a traditional part of the Christian celebration.

The procession on Good/Holy Friday is a re-enactment of the burial of Christ. The Holy Shroud/Plaschanitsa is carried around the church and is then placed into a symbolic tomb, just as the body of Jesus was carried from the Cross and placed in the new tomb by Joseph of Arimathea. During the procession the story of this event of St. Joseph of Arimathea is sung to a mournful tune.

The Holy Shroud/Plaschanitsa is placed on the Holy Altar at Resurrection and is kept there until Ascension Day to remind us that Jesus stayed on earth for forty days after He arose from the dead.

We greet each other with "Christ is Risen!" "Christos Voskrese"

For centuries, candles have been a large part of worship services in the Orthodox Church. They symbolize Christ as the Light of the world. We use them at Baptisms, weddings, funerals and especially during Holy Week and Pascha/Easter services. Please be attentive when holding your candles not to drip wax over the pews, carpet, or floor. It is very hard to clean. We hold candles all during the service on Thursday and only during the procession around the church on Friday and Saturday.

Not too long ago, daily liturgies for the dead celebrated in black were common in most parishes even during Lent. Presanctified Liturgies, where they were celebrated, were in the morning.

Religion is personal, but it is not private. It is impossible to be a Christian, a follower of Christ and to keep your religion private.

A study of man's inventions tells you he's more interested in a comfortable



EDITORS' NOTES

This is such a glorious month. The first Sunday is the Resurrection of Our Lord and the greeting of "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! gives us hope and peace.

This issue is the first in our 51st year of publishing. I stand corrected. Last month, I stated that we had distributed 2 million copies – it is closer to 3 million copies.

Another correction. Last month the article by Margaret Pysarchyk – "Grandmothers - Then and Now" was not credited. We do appreciate Margaret's articles. They are always well written and thoughtful.

This month, Ray Mastroberte has again submitted an article. We have missed his input the last few months. We welcome John Martenelli, who treasures his upbringing in the Eastern Church. His is a fresh voice.

We thank the many subscribers who send in $15 rather than $12 for their two-year subscription. It is their way of telling us that the paper is worth more than we charge. We appreciate the gesture.

At this time of year, when we prepare the traditional Pascha foods for blessing, we think about our parents or grandparents who came to this country with nothing but their heritage. That is one reason why we don't have any "antiques" handed down to us and this is why tradition and customs were or are so very important to them. It is important for us to preserve them, because they are the treasures which they gave us. They are our "antiques." They enrich our lives. Cherish them.

As we write this, the media is full of the problems facing the Roman Catholic Church. As legal cases wend their way through the civil and criminal courts, important markers are being established which may affect the way we know the relationship between church and state.

We are so moved by the hundreds of cards we receive each year. We do not read them and discard them. We keep them on our kitchen table and each meal we take a card and send prayers and good wishes to the senders. We often reminisce about our relationship. For many years, we seemed to be moving during the Christmas season. With the problems associated with moving, often overseas, we decided to send Easter cards. However, for various reasons, we will not be sending cards this year. We certainly wish all of you the assurance in the greeting – "Christ is Risen!" For "Indeed, He Is Risen!"

The Stroyens

A FAITHFUL SECRETARY

Baruch was the faithful friend and secretary of Jeremiah. He lived around 605 to 598 before Christ. He wrote down Jeremiah's prophecies on a scroll and then read them to the people in the temple area as well as to the officials of the king's court. (Jeremiah 36:4-18).

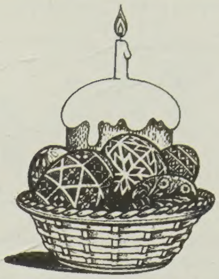
A spectacular find was made in Jerusalem in 1798 – Baruch's personal seal! Dated to the late 7th century B.C., it bears the inscription: "(Belonging) to Baruch, son of Neriah the scribe." Such seals, called bullae, were used for sealing correspondence. This clay seal of Baruch's is one of the few artifacts ever found which refers directly to a specific biblical character or event.

WITH OR WITHOUT GOD

When we know God, we are given the peace for which we so often pray, especially in the Divine Liturgy. When we experience the joy and peace that comes from faith, we are given glimpses of life in heaven. When we feel intense loneliness because we have not let God in our lives or when we feel despair because we do not trust in the God who keeps His promises, we are given glimpses of hell, a life without God.

* * * * * *

Attending services doesn't depend on how far you live from the church, but how close you live to God!



KITCHEN CORNER

We have saved our onion skins so that we can put them in a pot, put in the eggs, add cold water to cover, and 2 Tbls. of vinegar and simmer for 20 minutes. Remove from heat, put eggs into cold water. Shine with cloth dipped in oil. We will have beautiful red eggs of varying hues.

Many people would like to make their own paska, but they find difficulty kneading great amounts of dough. Here is a traditional recipe for "Paska" or "Kulich," which will make a small bread – easy to knead and just enough for one or two people.

KULICH OR PASKA BREAD

4 cups flour	1/2 cup raisins
1 Tbls. dried yeast	1/2 cup dried fruit
1 cup milk	1 tsp. cardamon
1/2 cup sugar	1/2 tsp. cinnamon
3 eggs	1/2 tsp. saffron
1 stick butter	1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 teas. salt	

Warm the milk to body temperature. Sprinkle on the yeast and 1 teas. of sugar. Add 2 cups of the flour and allow it to get frothy. Cream the butter and sugar. Then beat in the eggs, one at a time. Add the yeast mixture. Add the rest of the flour and the salt. Add spices and raisins and dried fruit, if using. Knead until the dough is smooth and elastic. Cover it and allow it to rise until double in size. Place into well-greased pan. Let rise again. Bake at 375° for 20-30 minutes, until golden brown. Cool on rack.

You may omit the spices and use 1 tsp. vanilla instead. The raisins and dried fruit are also optional. A coffee can is good to use to bake in. Dough should half fill can. Bake when it rises to top of can.

* * * * * *

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

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HOLY WEEK

Passion or Holy or Great Week are the terms used for the last week before Pascha/Easter. This week is consecrated to the commemoration of the last days of the earthly life of the Saviour: His suffering, death on the Cross, and burial.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week are dedicated to the commemoration of the last conversations of the Lord Jesus Christ with the people and His disciples.

On Thursday we commemorate the Mystical Supper, the washing of the feet of the disciples by Jesus Christ, His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and His betrayal by Judas.

Friday we observe His suffering on the Cross, His death and burial.

Saturday is dedicated to the time Jesus Christ, as taught in the Tropar, remained in the grave bodily, but on Hades with Your soul as God; in Paradise with the thief and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit were You Who will fill all things, O Christ, the Inexpressible."

CONTINUE

Come, ye believers, let us work diligently for the Master, for He gives riches to His servants.
Let each of us according to our ability increase the gift of grace.
Let one gain wisdom through good deeds, while another can accomplish splendid service.
Let another preach the word and faith to those who are untaught.
Let another distribute wealth to the poor.
So shall we increase what is entrusted to us as faithful servants of His Grace.
Prepare us for this joy, Christ our God, since Thou are the Lover of mankind.
(Sung on Holy Tuesday)

Home Bible Reading Schedule

MAY 2002

1	Matt 26:6-16	16	John 5:24-30
2	Matt 26:2-27:2	17	John 5:30-6:2
3	Matt 27:1-61	18	John 6:14-27
4	Matt 28:1-20	**19**	**Mark 15:43-16:8**
5	**John 1:1-17**	20	John 4:46-52
6	John 1:18-28	21	John 10:1-9
7	Luke 24:12-36	22	John 6:35-39
8	Luke 19:25-27, 21:24-25	23	John 6:40-44
		24	John 6:48-54
9	John 3:1-15	25	John 15:17-16:2
10	Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28	**26**	**John 5:1-15**
		27	John 6:56-69
11	Matt 5:14-19	28	John 7:1-13
12	**John 22:19-31**	29	John 7:14-30
13	John 2:19-26	30	John 8:12-20
14	John 3:16-21	31	John 8:27-30
15	John 5:17-24		

BIBLE STUDY

On May 29 [illegible] celebrate the Mid-Pentecost or [illegible]oveniy. This marks the halfway p[illegible]ween the two great days of Pascha [illegible]r and Pentecost. On it we recall t[illegible]nt stated in John 7:14-30 when Jesus went to the Temple for the Feast of Tabernacles and taught concerning His Lordship.

At the beginning of chapter 7 we learn that Jesus was already in danger. Because of growing opposition He did not go to the Temple at the beginning of the eight-day festival. (Neh. 8:18). His late appearance at the Temple startled both His friends and foes as did His claim to speak God's message to the people.

In verse 15, the people present question Him asking Him how He could be familiar with the Scriptures since He had never studied with any of the great Rabbis or Teachers who were supposed to have the key to the knowledge of the Scriptures. They were the experts. It is plain from their questions that they were perplexed by His knowledge.

The celebration of Mid-Pentecost is a very old one and has been on the Christian Calendar almost since the beginning. St. John Chrysostom preached about it and the hymns for the services for this day were composed by Anatoli of Crete in the 5th century, St. John of Damascus (8th c), Theofan the Confessor (9th c).

It is interesting that for the Sundays before and following this day, the readings have to do with water. Christ revealed Himself as the "Living Water" and in many parishes there was a procession with the Cross to the streams or rivers with flowing water. If they were fortunate enough to be at the headwaters (where a river began), a small chapel was built over the spot and this was the place of the blessing. In some traditions it is customary to use this water to bless the fields and gardens.

LIGHTER MOMENT

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card; it said "Rest in Peace." The owner was angry and called the florist to complain. After he had told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist said, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, 'Congratulations on your new location'."